



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

27 OCTOBER 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego—Sinaloa-Linked Cocaine Kingpin Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison

(U) The drug kingpin known as The Gatekeeper and El Licenciado, and who has strong links to the Sinaloa drug cartel and its former leader Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was sentenced on Tuesday for his role in importing tons of cocaine into the United States. Victor Emilio Cazares Gastellum was sentenced to 15 years in prison in a US District Court in San Diego after pleading guilty in June to conspiracy to import drugs as part of a scheme that moved more than 1,000 pounds of cocaine from Mexico into Southern California. Cazares was caught during a 22-month sting called "Operation Imperial Emperor" that included the arrests of 402 people around the country and the confiscation of \$45 million in cash and tons of cocaine, heroin and marijuana, according to the US Department of Justice.

SOURCE: 26 October 2016, [UPI](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia—US Charges 61 Over India-Based IRS Impersonation Scam

(U) Washington—The US Justice Department charged 61 people today with taking part in a scam involving India-based call centers where people impersonated Internal Revenue Service, immigration and other federal officials and demanded payments for non-existent debts. The scam, which had operated since 2013, targeted at least 15,000 people who lost more than \$300 million, the department said in a statement. The investigation involved Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Treasury, Homeland Security, US Secret Service and police officials, resulting in an indictment that included 32 people at five Indian call centers and 24 people in nine US states.

SOURCE: 27 October 2016, [Reuters](#)

(U) Florida—Zika May Be in the US to Stay, Say Health Officials

(U) Miami—Public health authorities and infectious disease specialists now say we may not be able to rid the US of the Zika virus. Despite months of intense work—including house to house inspections and aggressive mosquito control—federal, state and local officials have not been able to stop the spread of Zika in Miami. On Tuesday, the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Tom Frieden stated that "Zika and other diseases spread by *Aedes aegypti* are really not controllable with current technologies." More than 110 pregnant women have tested positive for Zika in Florida, and this month a fourth area was identified in Miami where Zika is being transmitted locally.

SOURCE: 26 October 2016, [NPR](#)

(U) Washington—Police Arrest Teenager in Internet Hoax that Overwhelmed 911 Call Center

(U) Lacey—A 18-year-old Thurston County man was arrested yesterday for his alleged involvement in an internet hoax that flooded Thurston Communications 911 with non-emergency calls the previous night, according to Lacey police. The man confessed to receiving a malicious link and posting it on his Twitter page. Smartphone users who then clicked on the link had their phones "hijacked," repeatedly dialing 911. The non-emergency calls tied up Thurston 911 lines for about 30 minutes, with dispatchers receiving non-emergency calls at a rate of about 1 every 30 seconds. The man was booked into the

Thurston County Jail on suspicion of "electronic data service interference," which is a felony, according to Lacey police.

SOURCE: 26 October 2016, [The Olympian](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan—US Says Two Top Al-Qa'ida Leaders Targeted in Strike

(U) Kabul—The United States carried out strikes in Afghanistan on Sunday targeting two of al-Qa'ida's most senior leaders in the country, the Pentagon said yesterday. One of the targets was Faruq al-Qatani, who served as al Qaeda's leader for northeastern Afghanistan and the other, Bilal al-Utabi, was involved in "efforts to re-establish a safe haven in Afghanistan from which to threaten the West, and in efforts to recruit and train foreign fighters," according to Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook. While the US military is still assessing the results of the air strikes, US officials said the strikes, carried out by drones, were the most significant attacks against the group in Afghanistan in several years.

SOURCE: 26 October 2016, [Reuters](#)

(U) Germany—Syrian Teen Scouted Attack Sites for ISIL, Say Prosecutors

(U) Berlin—German prosecutors say a 19-year-old Syrian migrant, identified only as Shaas al-M., scouted out potential sites in Berlin for an attack by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and recruited at least one person to fight in Syria. Prosecutors said in a statement today that al-M. joined ISIL in his Syrian home village in mid-2013. He underwent military training and performed guard duties for the group before leaving for Germany in mid-2015. He was arrested 22 March and charged last week with membership of a foreign terrorist organization and breaking arms control laws.

SOURCE: 27 October 2016, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Iraq—Up to 900 ISIL Members Killed in Mosul Battel, Says US

(U) Mosul—The United States said today that up to 900 ISIL members have been killed in the offensive to retake Iraq's Mosul, as camps around the city filled with fleeing civilians. The offensive, launched on 17 October, is seeing tens of thousands of Iraqi fighters advancing on Mosul from the south, east and north in a bid to retake the last major Iraqi city under ISIL control. There are between 3,500 and 5,000 ISIL members in Mosul and up to another 2,000 in the broader area, according to US estimates.

SOURCE: 27 October 2016, [AFP](#)

(U) Somalia—Al-Shabab in Comeback as Ethiopia Pulls Troops

(U) Mogadishu—Al-Shabab, the extremist organization in Somalia which had been steadily losing ground over the past five years, recently seized four towns and attacked a guesthouse in neighboring Kenya, killing 12. This month Ethiopia—which has 2,000 troops in the African Union force and an unknown number operating independently in Somalia—pulled its forces out of the towns of Halgan, El-Ali and Mahas in the Hiran region of south-central Somalia. Within hours of the pullout, al-Shabab fighters retook control of those towns, as well as the town of Tiye glow. Al-Shabab's resurgence comes after the extremist group recently splintered, with some former members forming an offshoot that is allied to ISIL, instead of al-Qa'ida.

SOURCE: 27 October 2016, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Syria—Warning of ISIL Plots Against West, US Plans Assault on Raqqa

(U) Raqqa—The fight to retake Raqqa, the Syrian city that serves as the ISIL capital, must begin soon—within weeks—to disrupt planning believed to be underway there to stage terrorist attacks on the West, senior Defense Department and military officials said yesterday. Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter said in Brussels that the offensive to oust ISIL from Raqqa would begin within weeks. Lt. Gen. Stephen

Townsend, the top American military commander in Iraq, declined to name a specific threat against Western targets emanating from Raqqa, but described a “sense of urgency” and said it was imperative that operations to isolate the city begin soon to prevent attacks on the West.

SOURCE: 26 October 2016, [New York Times](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California—US Coast Guard Seize 2.8 Tons of Cocaine from Makeshift Sub

(U) San Diego—The US Coast Guard is expected to offload more than 39,000 pounds of cocaine today seized from seafaring traffickers during a record fiscal year in which the agency intercepted about \$5.6 billion worth of cocaine. Coast Guard officials will hold a briefing this morning aboard the Alameda-based cutter Waesche, now docked at Naval Base San Diego, to detail the seizure of more than 416,000 pounds of cocaine off the coast of Central and South America over the course of the fiscal year that ended on 30 September. About 5,600 pounds of the record cocaine haul was taken off a self-propelled semisubmersible vessel on 6 September by the crew of the Waesche. In addition, the Coast Guard apprehended 585 suspected drug smugglers during the last fiscal year, which is an agency record.

SOURCE: 27 October 2016, [CBS 8 San Diego](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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